

Appn. Number 10/705,840 Guyon et al.
Amendment dated Thursday, 04/13/2006
Reply to Office Action dated 01/24/2006

GAU 3618

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph.

[0009] Our invention is an in line skate guard for an in line skate. A typical in line skate comprises a boot and a frame. The frame carries a plurality of serially mounted rollers. Typically, each of the rollers has a width between their side walls and a ~~circumferential arcuate taper~~ rounded rolling surface at their outside ends. A typical in line skate will also include a brake spur on one of the skates, usually the right one.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following paragraph.

[0014] The groove in the elongate body of our invention further includes a bottom surface adapted to engage the contact surface of each of the rollers. The groove has a first width that is adapted to receive the width of the rollers and hold them in a pinching relationship. The groove has a second width that is narrower than the first width. Between the first and second widths there is a beveled portion adapted to receive and hold in a pinching relationship the ~~circumferential arcuate taper~~ rounded rolling surface of each of the rollers. The groove further includes a front curvilinear bight and a rear curvilinear bight. The groove is deep enough so that when the in line skate guard is fastened to the in line skate, the top surface of the walls of the groove abut the bottom surface of the frame.

Please replace paragraph [0064] with the following paragraph.

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[0064] Referring to Figure 2, there is shown a front or toe view and a rear or heel view of the in line skate (10). First roller (16) is mounted to frame (14) by way of axle (24). First roller (16) has a circumferential arcuate taper rounded rolling surface (38) for contacting skating surface (39). Similarly, last roller (22) is mounted to frame (14) by axle (30). Roller (22) has a circumferential arcuate taper rounded rolling surface (41) for contact with the skating surface (41).

Please replace paragraph [0077] with the following paragraph.

[0077] Now referring to Figure 6, there is shown the middle portion (46) of the elongate body of our invention in side view and in cross section. Demarcation line (50) separating the front portion (44) from the middle portion (46) is shown as is demarcation line (80) separating the middle portion (46) from the rear portion (48). In the cross section view, there are shown the following features, some of which are more fully explained below. The middle portion (46) includes horizontal bottom portion (128) walls (151) and (153) defining groove (150). There is also illustrated the unique beveling of the inside of the groove (150). The top width (171) is adapted to accommodate the width of the rollers of the in line skate and to create a compressive or pinching relationship between the inside surfaces of the walls (163) and (165) and the side walls of rollers. Deeper within the groove are found bevels (160) and (162) that create a thinner width (173) at the bottom surface (167) of the groove. The beveled portions within our in line skate guard are adapted to accommodate the circumferential arcuate taper rounded rolling surface of the rollers. When the skate is placed within the skate guard the lower beveled portion of the groove will pinch against the sides of the circumferential arcuate taper rounded rolling surface of the rollers. As the roller wears with use and in the contact As the rounded rolling surface of the roller wears down with use with the running surface becomes flatter, the bottom surface of the the pinching action of the beveled portion continues to accommodate roller wear over time and holds the rollers immobile regardless of their wear, groove is able to better contact bottom of the roller so as to hold it in an immobile configuration. Advantageously, the harder the skate guard is used the more secure the skate guard is on the in line skate. For example, the wearer of our invention skate guard

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may run while wearing in line skates with our invention attached. As the wearer runs, the rollers are forced deeply within the groove and thereby further immobilizing the rollers.

Please replace paragraph [0086] with the following paragraph.

[0086] Referring now to Figures 6, 7 and 8, there is shown our invention elongate body (42) in a side and top view respectively, with means within the body for accepting, immobilizing and securing the plurality of rollers of an in line roller skate. As shown in Figure 8, there is a channel-shaped groove (150) depending from the upper surface (120) of the body (42) into the body to a depth illustrated by line (41) adequate to retain the plurality of rollers in a stable and immobile configuration. As illustrated in the cross section in Figure 6, the channel shaped groove is defined by side walls (151) and (153). Each of the walls (151) and (153) includes an upper surface (155) and (157), inside surfaces (163) and (165) and outside surfaces (159) and (161). First width (171) and second width (173) of the channel-shaped groove (150) are also shown. Between the first and second widths there are bevel transition portions (160) and (162). The first width is wide enough to accept the entire width of the roller in a pinching engagement. It is understood that the material used to mold the elongate body has a certain amount of elastic flexibility that will allow the walls (151) and (153) to flex elastically outwardly when the roller blades are pushed into the groove (150). The beveled portion created by the second width is adapted to accept the circumferential taper rounded rolling surface of the roller also in a pinching engagement. The use of two widths and beveled portion in the groove permits the roller to embed further into the elongate body as the wearer walks or runs. Furthermore, as the rollers wear, the groove is able to adapt and continue to hold the worn roller in a pinching engagement. This provides provide greater stability to the

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wearer of our in line skate guard as the rollers wear down over time. As illustrated in Figure 3, when the skate rollers are placed into the skate guard, the bottom surface (11) of frame (14) of the skate will be in an abutting contact with the upper surfaces (155) and (157) of the skate guard walls (151) and (153).

Please replace paragraph [0088] with the following paragraph.

[0088] Referring to Figure 9 there is shown in sectional view the front face of front portion (44) with first roller (16) held within the elongate body. The first roller wheel body is placed within the first width (171) and the ~~circumferential arcuate taper rounded rolling surface~~ of the roller wheel body is placed within the groove beveled portion. The lower contact surface of the roller is in contact with the bottom of the groove.

Please replace paragraph [0089] with the following paragraph.

[0089] Referring to Figure 10, there is shown the back face of the back portion (48) in section view. The rear roller (22) of the in line skate is placed within the channel first width (171) in a pinching engagement to prevent rotation of the roller. The ~~rounded rolling surface circumferential taper portion~~ (41) of the last wheel body (22) is placed in a pinching relationship within the beveled portion of the groove. The bottom of the wheel is in contact with the bottom of the groove.

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